

Amendments to the Specification

On page 4, replace the description of Figure 1 with the following

FIG. 1 ~~is a schematic longitudinal~~ schematically shows a cross section of part of a tool for excavating an object ~~constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, shown in a borehole;~~

On page 4, replace the description of Figure 3 with the following

Fig. 3 ~~is a schematic diagram of part of the surface (parts a-to-e)~~ shows photographs of a tool as shown in Fig. 1 ~~with an~~ having an increasing amount of steel shot retained on its support surface;

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 14-22, with the following:

Part of a tool for excavating an object is schematically shown in longitudinal section in FIG. 1. The tool can be connected to the lower end of a drill string (not shown) extending into a borehole ~~19~~ formed in an object such as an earth formation ~~20~~. The tool is arranged to jet a stream ~~34~~ of drilling fluid mixed with abrasive particles against the object to be excavated and to recirculate at least part of the abrasive particles. The abrasive particles must be magnetisable for this tool.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 3-16, with the following:

Magnetic particles retained on the support surface by the separator magnet tend to arrange themselves in elongate chains along a magnetic path from one pole to the nearest pole of opposite polarity. ~~Examples of such Such chains 43,45 are shown in visible in FIG. 3,~~ wherein three photographs 3A, 3B and 3C are shown of increasing amounts of steel shot retained on the support surface ~~15~~ housing the helical separator magnet. As can be seen, the ~~The~~ steel shot arranges itself in chains 43 along the helical high-field band having NNSS poles. The chains 43 between the N and S poles lie flat on the support surface ~~15~~. Chains of shot in the middle of an N or S pole stick out of the support surface since the poles correspond to sources or drains of magnetic field lines.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 21, line 23 to page 22, line 4, with the following:

FIG. 9 shows a schematic view of a tool for excavating an object, including a recirculation system as described above. Visible are the conically shaped support surface 15 housing the separator magnet, and the ridge 41 housing the bypassing drilling fluid passage. This ridge is also visible in FIG. 3. The dimensions correspond to those given in Table I.

Referring to FIG. 9 and FIG. 3, filtering means are optionally provided in the form of a skirt 43, shielding the abrasive particle inlet 4 from the annulus and creating an opening 44 in the form of a slit between the skirt 43 and support surface 15. The support surface 15 and the inside surface of skirt 43 define a passage channel connecting the abrasive particle inlet 4 with the bore hole annulus. This skirt arrangement avoids that rock grains larger than the size of the access window of abrasive particle inlet 4 enter the passage channel.